/77 cont./

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262

miscellaneous food. This was called yin. Maggots and worms were the delicacies. The wealthy kept buckets of yin for many generations." This was probably the same as the yin of the Miao.

than ten chin were slaughtered and eaten. They were delicious and tender, excelling fat chickens. The dried meat made from them was especially tasty. Those who slaughtered cows would soak the bones in deep springs. After a long time they became soft and were considered a delicacy. The foregoing were the [77] old food habits of the Miao. Today, after having been acculturated to the Chinese for a long time, they may have discarded them. The authors in the course of their investigation in the Miao area did not hear of such foods. Or, perhaps, the Miao, conscious of their unseemly customs, concealed the facts from us.

271 262 574 272 273 The Miao drink water from the streams. When guests arrive they offer ginger soup or hot pepper soup to show respect. Today, they also know how to use tea in place of soup. There are three kinds of wine, corn wine, wheat /or barley/ wine, and rice wine, which they make themselves for their own consumption.

291 [77] Personal adornment. — As for the style of dress of the Miao in Hunan today, whether for men or women, it is not very different and can be said to have been completely influenced by the Chinese. The men wrap their heads with black cloth, and wear green or black cloth short garments and trousers, and black cloth belts around the waist, and go barefooted (Illus. 41). During the Manchu dynasty only the village headman shaved his head, the rest piled their hair in hair knots on top of their heads. Today, their hair is close cut or shaved smooth like the Chinese. The only difference is that they pull out the whiskers withthe fingernails or with tweezers. Today, those

302 [622] [177] [515] 000

[5 cont.] One difference is their fondness of
262 hot pepper, [6] of which they use a lot in their dishes. To whet
[263] their appetite while eating, they have a bowl of dried pepper mixed with soup at the table, into which they dip every chopsticksful of food. The second difference lies in the scarcity of meat, their food consisting chiefly of vegetables grown by themselves or bought from the market. The daily dishes are mostly sour cabbage, sour soup, salted cabbage, preserved cabbage and pepper mixed with beancurd in different styles of cooking. The
263 third difference is the scarcity of salt in their cuisine due to the high price of salt in Kweichow. Even the well-to-do Miao-I use it sparingly. They roll a lump of salt in a cooked dish once and then save it for future use to last for a long time. The fourth
312 difference is their lack of water. They live in the high mountains, hence the name "kao-shan Miao" [high mountain Miao], and have to go down to the low land to get their water supply.
[515] The scarcity of water makes them reluctant to wash often. They
● [271] are also used to drinking unboiled water and cold rice. Fifthly,
273 they are fond of wine, and their capacity being large, they use big bowls but sip slowly, enjoying all the while. Often they are dead drunk when they come back from the market place or from a party.

291 2) Costumes. The various Miao-I groups retain the special characteristics of their costumes, which have become the symbols of their identification. The colors of their clothes are green, blue, gray, black and white, the other pigments being unavailable. The dress materials of the Miao-I in the northwest are mostly
[439] home-spun hemp fabrics or cotton cloth obtained from the Chinese in the market place. In the southeast they produce
[294] cotton, and spin, weave and dye the cloth at home. They sew the clothes themselves, there being no tailors. The men wear
[302] their hair in chignons piled upon the head and wrapped up in turbans of blue cloth, which are not removed all year round and look like basins. The costumes of the women are not as simple as those of the men as they still retain their ancient styles and forms, which are too elaborate to relate here. Except the I women of the Chung-chia and Tung-chia, who are more progressive and wear long jackets and trousers like the Chinese, all the

[from the Chinese.-Analyst]

[159 cont.]

271 The "Méo" habitually drink water, but they make alcohol
273 from grain (distilled or fermented) which they often drink without the slightest moderation.

They smoke tobacco in the bamboo water pipe or in the long
276 pipe [160] with the small bowl and mouthpiece of porcelain, of a model analogous to that of the "Man" pipe.

They smoke opium in a very moderate manner. Big opium smokers are rare among the "Méo" of Upper Tonkin.

[249] Sometimes they cultivate hashish, but never make use of it.

The "Méo" are, above all, farmers and they cultivate upon
241 their mountains the various grains and vegetables enumerated above.
311 They utilize to this end parcels of land capable of growing vegetation, even the tiniest, sides of knolls, shallow basins, clefts in the rocks.

The maize is sown in the fourth month and is spread about on
243 all the parcels which can be cultivated, often by clumps of two or three hills. The ground is scratched very lightly, with the plough or with the hoe. It receives a little manure at the exact spot where the seed will be deposited. The harvest takes place towards the eighth month. It is not unusual to see the fields planted to maize—
249 as we have seen above for certain irrigated rice fields — transform themselves into ground for the growing of opium, which is planted toward the ninth month, after the earth has been mixed with a few ashes. The opium harvest takes place the third month and the ground
[243] again is given over to the cultivation of maize or of sorghum. The buckwheat generally produces two crops a year.

248 The "Méo" also cultivate hemp, to which they consecrate their best areas of ground (bottoms of cirques or of valleys). The hemp is sown the fourth month and reaped the seventh month.

231 The "Méo" keep a few bees. They often have hives whose honey is used in cake-making.

244 They raise their numerous vegetables either in gardens laid out near their cabins, or in the maize fields at the same time as the maize.

412 The agricultural implements consist of ploughs of a primitive
407 model with ploughshares of iron, and some hoes. For the harvest, large scythes and billhooks are used.